The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters of labor law occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1922 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 38

Green Welcomes ITF Board; Tribute Paid Late R. J. Watt

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor played host to the executive board of the International Federation of Trade Unions Workers now in this country to hold one of its regular executive sessions.

At a luncheon tendered the visitors, AFL President William Green welcomed the group and expressed the determination of the AFL to fight against the current repressive labor legislation in order to make America a "forward looking nation" ready to do its part in leading the world toward peace and security.

J. R. Oldenbroek of Great Britain, general secretary of the ITF, took the occasion to pay tribute to the late Robert J. Watt, former AFL International representative. He eulogized Watt for his vigorous fight in behalf of democracy, not only in the United States, but throughout the world, and announced that the ITF, as a tribute, would place a wreath at Mr. Watt's grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

The ITF, composed of unions in the basic industry repre-sents workers in upwards of twenty nations. The size and strength of the organization was further increased by the recent action of the Italian federation in admitting the German transport labor in the U. S. Zones into the British zones into the Federation.

Trade unions in the United States participating in the affairs of the ITF included the Seafarers International Union, the Masters, Mates and Pilots Association, and many of the railway labor organizations.

Morse Says Healthy American Economy Vital to World Tranquility and Peace

Cincinnati—David A. Morse, Under Secretary of Labor, said labor has an "ever-riding interest and concern and responsibility" in a social and economic program to support the basic need for world tranquility and peace.

In an address before the convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, Mr. Morse emphasized labor's world perspective. He said:

"We deal in a world today, not just a country. We are no longer able to function without due regard to international implications."

"Maintenance of a healthy American economy is no longer merely a matter of self-interest. It is also a matter of other peoples' lives. Starving and ill-clad millions depend upon our assistance for their very survival."

Mr. Morse declared that for our own good and for the good of the world "we must maintain high production, obtain a balance in wage relations, and achieve industrial stability." He asserted:

"We must also recognize that helping other countries achieve economic rehabilitation is to our advantage. World economies are so interlocked that our own economy is affected by conditions in other countries. Just as poor people cannot buy consumer goods domestically, so poor nations cannot import American products. Curtailment of exports will mean curtailment of jobs in exporting industries.

"We have another equally important reason for economic rehabilitation abroad. Recent history has abundantly shown that totalitarian philosophies breed and develop on poverty, hunger and misery. They can and always promise the needy a better deal. They can go one step better. They can insure the better deal—and let them still retain their democracy and individual liberty. Such a golden opportunity must not be ignored."

Mr. Morse was recently the head of the U. S. delegation at the recent International Labor Conference in Geneva, gave a vivid portrayal of a trip to Europe and Asia.

Calling for a vigorous program to help other countries, Mr. Morse declared "we can help them most, if we will, by embarking on providing an economically sound and strong America; by setting a living example."

"We must show the world our strength—and in my view our real strength is based in belief in our own democratic institutions, and in our insistence that they function. We cannot, within the limits of our capacities here, impair their civil rights, block their legitimate social and economic opportunities and hope for the survival of democracy in the world. With any other course we build a—frankenstein."

Democratic Trade Unions to Formulate New Pan American Labor Organization

Washington, D. C.—A hemispheric labor organization composed of democratic trade unions in North and South America will be organized next January in Lima, Peru, according to press reports.

Labor unions and federations from 17 countries, including the American Federation of Labor, are reported to have signified their intention of joining what probably will be known as the Pan American Federation of Labor.

The new organization will seek to rival the Latin-American Confederation of Labor (CTAL), which is regarded as Communist-dominated.

Although the Pan American Federation will be started with relatively little strength in the Latin American countries, it will have the financial and moral support of organizations in the United States and Canada. The Canadian Trades and Labor Congress leaders have assented to the formation of the new organization.

Unions disassociated from the CTAL are not federated in some Latin-American countries. In those cases the delegates will be direct representatives of their national unions. According to word received here, no CTAL unions will be invited unless separated will be invited.

The AFL has favored the establishment of such an intersmerican labor federation.

For many years the world labor movement has looked to the International Federation of Trade Unions, now succeeded by the British Trades Union Congress and the AFL and ex-CIO leaders in Europe. The British took the lead two or three years ago in the formation of the Confederation of the CIO and the Russians resented it as a bid for dominion in the new organization.

The AFL has retained representation in the international labor organization through the presence of Matthew Woll. This is not strictly a labor body, being made up of employer and labor government representatives as well as those of the workers. The AFL is also retained fraternal relationships with unions in Britain, Canada and a few Latin-American countries.

AFL'S ASBESTOS WORKERS TO OBEY TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

Chicago.—The AFL's Asbestos Workers Union, in convention here pledged conformance with the Taft-Hartley law and revised its own union law for that purpose.

Delegates authorized the changing of constitutional provisions to delete closed shop provisions in order to conform with the new law's ban on the closed shop.

R. R. OPERATING UNIONS SEEK 30% WAGE HIKE

Washington, D. C.—Encouraged by the success of the 17 non-operating railroad unions in obtaining new railway brotherhoods decided to press demands for a 30 percent wage boost with a minimum hike of $2 a day. They are also asking changes in 42 rules governing their working conditions.

H. W. Fraser, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, said he believed the wage demands of the unions may be settled satisfactorily through negotiations with the carriers.

The leader of the conductors is attending a meeting of the Railway Labor Executives Association. He is vice-president of the organization representing 20 standard railroad unions.

Industrial Employment Sets Record; Level In August Up More Than 400,000

Washington, D. C.— Non-agricultural employment reached the highest employment level in 1947 when 42,556,000 workers held jobs in mid-August, according to a report prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Ewan Clague, BLS head, said this was an increase of more than 400,000 over the July level of employment in industry.

Mr. Clague declined to forecast how far the upward trend of employment might continue. He did observe, however, that "if the country follows the experience of our most recent prewar years gains in industrial employment should continue until late in the fall."

According to Mr. Clague, the usual summer rise in industrial employment began "on schedule" as employers rebounded vigorously from the seasonal decline of the previous few months.

The number of persons registering for unemployment benefits indicated that the downward trend in unemployment still persisted as of mid-September, said Mr. Clague. He declared that the claims load of those applying for these benefits was now at the lowest level since soon after the end of the war.

While unemployment has been declining in virtually all areas, Mr. Clague indicated that the largest reductions have been along the Eastern seaboard, where the apparel and textile industries are located, and in California, where the canning industry is a major employer.

Mr. Clague said the 400,000 increase in employment for August has been mainly among adult workers rather than in the younger group.

He attributed the spurt in employment to (1) the fading away of (1) Stepped-up activity in the soft-goods manufacturing fields, particularly apparel and food; (2) recall of many workers who had been made temporarily idle by material shortages and vacation slowdowns; and (3) the continued expansion of construction.

Senate Committee to Weigh Pay Boost Urged by Federal Employees' Unions

Washington, D. C.—Federal employees' soaring pay raise legislation, as well as other measures affecting Government workers, is scheduled for discussion at a special meeting to be conducted by the Senate Civil Service Committee in November, Senator Langer (R., N. Dak.) who presided the boosting of Government salaries, invited representatives of all Federal employee unions to attend the meeting for the purpose of developing a program to present to the committee to the Congress next January.

Union leaders feel it is important that Federal employee be afforded relief from the rising costs and will tend to wage a strong campaign for favorable action by Congress. In so doing they will be reflecting the views of the rank and file Government workers who have been doing no pressure salary drive in behalf of their organizations.

Langer's proposal to call the meeting for the purpose of developing legislation, as well as other measures affecting Government workers, is scheduled for discussion at a special meeting to be conducted by the Senate Civil Service Committee in November, Senator Langer (R., N. Dak.) who presided the boosting of Government salaries, invited representatives of all Federal employee unions to attend the meeting for the purpose of developing a program to present to the committee to the Congress next January.

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The unions are expected to ask for a temporary pay boost, believing this is the only way they can get what they would have a change with this economy-minded Congress. Proposed legislation would grant an annual $400 pay boost to Government employees and this would be withdrawn when the states started coming down approciably.

While pay raise legislation is the chief concern of the union leaders, they are also desirous of pressing for Senate consideration of the Federal retirement plan for Federal workers. The House passed the bill during the first session of the 80th Congress, but the Senate failed to take action on the measure.

Rabbinical Council Urges Reasonable Administration of Taft-Hartley Law

New York City.—The Social Justice Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America called for reasonable administration of the "ambiguous" Taft-Hartley law which "actually seeks to reverse the course of progress in labor-management relations."

On the occasion of the Jewish New Year, Dr. Manuel Laderman, chairman of the commission, issued a statement urging the American people to eliminate racial discrimination, and to cooperate with the United Nations in efforts to bring down the high cost of living. He said:

"A change has taken place in our country with regard to the rights of laboring men and women. A new hostility to their legitimate aspirations of the right to work, to be compensated for their labor at decent rates and to security in their jobs has become apparent. New forms of pressure have been applied to diminish the gains which laboring people had painfully achieved after years of struggle. Ambiguous legislation has been approved, presumably intended to correct abuses, but actually seeks to reverse the course of progress in labor-management relations. As a religious leaders it is our profound hope that the administration of the labor laws there will be a reasoned approach which will avoid aggravating a tense situation. We are more fortunately situated in the United States than in any other country on earth. We dare not allow class friction to destroy the copious resources for a full life for all of our citizenry.

"Old sources of ill-will in the field of race relations, from which American have too often suffered in the past, are receiving international attention. Those whose purpose it is to malign America use the discriminations against minorities as a means to attack to tar our country's good name. The noble intention of being helpful to the United Nations in their endeavors is being obscured by revelations of discrimination which is entirely unchallenged within our borders. A more vigilant search for and correction of deficiencies would lift American practices to conform with the high ideals the democratic status of our people. In fact, there can become our duty to discourage the attempts to improve the lot of others, to remove injustices in ou rcolleges, to open up areas of employment, to eliminate restrictions on housing and the great host of disabilities which mar the American scene.

"Our economy has been suffering because of the significant removal of barriers against high prices. The restrictions on the expansion of production and prices was predicted on the false assumption that elimination of supply and demand would bring necessary relief. That relief result has not been accomplished. The fact is that the controlled economy system there must be greater cooperation with the government to bring the cost of living within the reach of most people."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPIC FOR AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's radio program, "Labor, USA," broadcast by the Federation and will be devoted to a discussion of the significant recent foreign and foreign policy.

Participating in the discussion will be Irving Brown, the AFL's European representative, and Leonard D. Keenan, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor and Philip Pearl, the AFL's publicity director.

"Labor, USA" originates in Washington and is broadcast each Tuesday evening at 10:30 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company. Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

BALL-BEARING FIRMS FINED FOR PRICE-FIXING

Cleveland.—Federal Judge Emerich B. Freed fined six ball-bearing firms a total of $50,000 for price-fixing violations of the Sherman Act.

Attorneys for the firms pleaded nolo contendere. The firms were General Motors Corp., Detroit; SKF Industries, Inc., Philadelphia; Marlin-Rockwell Corp., Jamestown, N. Y.; Fafnir Bearings Co., New Britain, Conn.; Federal Bearings Co., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Norma-Hoffman Bearing Corp., Stamford, Conn. Each concern was fined $5,000.

On recommendation of the Justice Department, Judge Freed also suspended in the cases of Charles F. Stanley, vice president of the Fafnir firm, and Howard A. Johnston, sales manager for Marlin-Rockwell.

Denham Won't Budge On 'Red' Rule; Allows More Time For Filing Oaths

NICB Price Index At Peak; Dollar Value Drops By 15%

New York City.—The National Industrial Conference Board, a private research organization, reported a drop of nearly one percent in the purchasing power of the dollar during the month of July.

Since June, 1946, the dollar, measured in terms of what it will buy in stores and markets, has dropped 14.4 percent in value.

At the same time, the NICB said the consumers price index rose to a new high of 126.5 during the month of July. Base date for the index used by the NICB in its computations is the year 1923, when prices were considered normal at 100.

Over the 13-month period between June, 1946 and July 1947, the weighted average of all items in the index climbed 16.9 percent. During the same period food rose 24.1 percent, clothing went up 11.2 percent, fuel and light increased 8.2 percent and sundries jumped 9.4 percent. Housing, due to the restraining effect of the wartime rent control law remained unchanged.

Information upon which the price index is based is gathered monthly by the NICB in 66 cities throughout the nation. During July when the most recent survey was made, prices rose in all but two of these cities.

Thus, the findings of the NICB bear out the fact previously made clear by other agencies that consumers' price index prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This fact is that while prices maintain their steady upward climb, the value of wage earners' income has dropped in spite of increases in take-home pay.

Farmers' Gross Income In 1946 Shows 208% Gain Over Average Prewar Years

Washington, D. C.—Income received by farmers in 1946 was 208 percent greater than the average for the years 1935 and 1939 and their net assets held by farmers doubled since 1940, according to a report issued by the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Economics.

The nation's farmers received a record $24,500,000,000 for last year's crops and started 1947 with assets worth $111,209,000,000.

The record-breaking report, based on revised figures, pointed out that most of the increase in farmers' gross earnings resulted from still-booming prices that have continued to increase still further during the first eight months of this year.

Despite the record takes last year, the report said, farmers went further into debt. The total of crop loans increased from $2,110,000,000 to $4,-524,000,000 during the year and mortgages on farms climbed 600 million dollars to a year-end total of $4,890,-000,000.

Debt Estimated At $2,050 Per Capita

Washington, D. C.—The combined total of public and private debt in the United States dropped during 1946 by $11,000,000,000, according to a statement issued by the Commerce Department.

The 15 billion dollar reduction leaves the debt at $2,050 per neighborhood of $393¼ billion, or $2,050 for each man, woman and child, the statement said.

Commerce Department figures attributed about $150 billion of the total debt to individuals and corporations. Of the public debt of about $243 billion, Uncle Sam owes $190 billion and state and local governments make up the remaining $13.5 billion, the figures show.

The department said that private debt rose from $136 billion to $151 billion, but was more than offset by a reduction of $25 billion in that owed by the Federal Government.

AFL'S TEXTILE WORKERS WIN FAVORABLE CONTRACT

Lawrence, Mass.—The AFL's United Textile Workers negotiated a new agreement with the Arlington Mills division of the William Whitman Co.

Under the contract, which runs until August 1, 1949, the union gained six paid holidays, improved paid vacations, time and a half pay for Saturday and Sunday hospitalization and surgical benefits, life, accident and sickness insurance and pension benefits.

The agreement provided for no immediate wage increase, but contains a reopening clause for bargaining of the wage question in February of next year, 1948.

The UTW recently defeated the CIO in an election determined the bargaining agent for the company's 6,000 employes. The AFL group won by a large margin in its successful resistance to the CIO's raiding attempt.

WILLIAMS RESIGNS FROM PA. STATE LABOR POSITION

Harrisburg, Pa.—David Williams, Deputy Secretary of Labor and Industry since 1945, resigned.

Williams will leave the state service to accept a post as labor relations advisor to Schenley Distillers, Inc., New York. A former secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor (AFL), Williams has had a long career in the labor relations field.

In this connection, the Federal Reserve Board reported that loans to commercial banks alone had $2,200,-000,000 outstanding at the end of the short-term farm production season of last June 30.

The Agriculture experts said that farmers' cash earnings last year were the largest in a century. Farm buying series which started in 1939 and apparently has not yet reached its climax."

The report, in part, based on revised figures, pointed out that most of the increase in farmers' gross earnings resulted from still-booming prices that have continued to increase still further during the first eight months of this year.

An official Agriculture Department report released recently that farmers were doing even better this year. It said the average farmer was ahead in more dollars than ever before and that the total agreed unions in the field, is the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers.

Report Praises Garment Unions

Washington, D. C.—Strikes in the clothing industry "have not been eliminated" through labor-management cooperation, according to a report released by the Brookings Institution.

Dr. Kurt Braun, of the staff of the Brookings research group, reporting on a study of the industry, said that the growth of union-management cooperation "has been one of the significant labor developments of the time."

Dr. Braun said that unions in the industry "have obtained the right to bargain collectively, to participate in decisions formerly reserved to management." In return, he said, "they agreement." In return, he said, "they accept the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and forego strike action but still may strike if negotiations for new agreements fail."

"Increased efficiency and goodwill that have resulted from the favorable management in some degree to the relinquishment of some of its authority to the union," he reported.

One of the largest unions in the field, is the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers.

U. S. FARM EMPLOYMENT UP 21,000 ABOVE LAST YEAR

Washington, D. C.—Total farm employment in the United States September 1 rose to 11,132,000, which was 21,000 above a year ago, the Agriculture Department reported.

Of the total, 2,872,000 were hired workers, 1,000 more than were employed September 1 last year. The number of family workers declined 79,000 to 8,260,000.

The department said supplies of seasonal labor generally were adequate for the peak harvest season during the current harvest season. Au. 1st, when generating the first eight months of 1947 totaled $17,400,-000,000.

BUILDING SERVICE GROUP REELECTS ALL OFFICERS

New York City.—Local 32B of the AFL's Building Service Employees International Union reelected its officers to another 2-year term without opposition. The c ers had been nominated unanimously, but despite this fact 8,502 union members voted in the election as an expression of their confidence in the officials.

Officers elected are David Sullivan, president; Thomas Shortman, vice-president; A. L. Marckham, secretary-treasurer, and Thomas Young, recording secretary.

Time Extension Saves Dismissal of 5,000 Cases By NLRB

Washington, D. C.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, stood pat on his ruling that all top officers of the AFL and the CIO must file Under the deadline originally set the NLRB would have thrown out nearly 5,000 cases this week for non-compliance with the edict.

Denham stood by his interpretation despite a AFL protests that it illegally discriminates against unions over which AFL and CIO have control. He said:

"I don't want to appear stubborn about this. But I have given long and careful consideration to the Taft-Hartley law and there isn't any other ruling to be made on the question affidavits before any affiliated unions may appear before the NLRB.

Meanwhile, Denham gave union officers until October 31 to file the required oaths that they are not Communists, provided they request such an extension. Under the deadline originally set the NLRB would have thrown out nearly 5,000 cases this week for non-compliance with the edict.

Denham stood by his interpretation despite a AFL protests that it illegally discriminates against unions over which AFL and CIO have control. He said:

"I don't want to appear stubborn about this. But I have given long and careful consideration to the Taft-Hartley law and there isn't any other ruling to be made on the question affidavit requirement as I see it.

"Maybe the courts will differ with me. But I have been able to convince me that I'm wrong.

There appears to be no solution to the controversy over the law as Denham maintains he stand, prior to the AFL appeal filed on October 6th in San Francisco. While moves have been made to test the validity of the Denham edict, there is no assurance of a hearing in the near future.

AFL General Counsel, Joseph A. Padway, filed a strong petition with the NLRB calling for reconsideration of the interpretation. He acted in behalf of several AFL unions which claim their rights before the NLRB are illegally denied by the ruling.

In another test, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers appealed to the NLRB a decision of the NLRB's regional director that the union was ineligible to utilize the board's services because of action taken by the AFL Executive Council in refusing to sign the affidavit, Addavits.

The Executive Council refused to comply with the interpretation and declared that the Taft-Hartley law as "reprehensible, vicious, and destructive of the civil and legal rights of workers."

Two Republican Senators, Taft and Aiken, challenged the correctness of Denham's ruling. Senator Taft said there is no "legislative history" of the law which would justify the interpretation which Denham rendered the ruling "silly" and called for an investigation by the labor committee clarify the provisions relating to the non-communist affidavits.

The pressure brought by unions influential Senators to change the original deadline for the submission of the affidavits by the unions willing to sign. They complained that too short time had been allowed by all national and local officers to obtain the affidavits and file them with NLRB by the time allotted.

Law Seen Forcing Political Action

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Taft-Hartley law compels the American Federation of Labor to enter the political field, according to Emil J. Mazziante, president of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor.

Addressing the opening session of the federation's 1947 annual convention at the Hotel Ambassador, Mr. Marciante bitterly denounced the act and declared:

"As the law stands today, unions cannot function as they will be mutilated, and those that do not will be destroyed," he declared.

"The AFL, which has shunned political action in the past, is confronted with a new situation that will compel more politics. The bill has forced the AFL into the European pattern of trade unionism—half economic, half political. That means the class system has been forced down our throats."

CATTLE RAISERS POCKET 70 CENTS OF MEAT DOLLAR

Washington, D. C.—Cattle growers who raise beef cattle are getting about 70 cents of every dollar the consumer spends now for meat, compared with 51 cents in 1929, according to figures released by the Department of Agriculture.

The department said, however, that it had little definite information as to how the other 30 cents was divided among others who share in the dollar, such as the commission agents who handle livestock sales, the packer, the wholesaler and the retailer.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT UP AS GI'S TAKE UP STUDIES

New York City.—Enrollment in America's colleges and universities this fall will be the greatest in the history of higher education, according to press reports.

The New York Times stated that more than 2½ million men and women will be attending institutions of higher learning, a 10 percent increase over last year's record high and more than a million more than the prewar peak.

Chief cause for the unprecedented enrollment is the rush of veterans to the campuses. An estimated 1,250,000 GIs will study at the nation's colleges and universities and the Veterans Administration says the trend will continue upward.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS TO RECEIVE BACK PAY

Washington, D. C.—Government workers who failed to receive automatic in-grade promotions because of official error—numbering between 5,-000 and 10,000—will receive from $100 to $150 each in back pay, under terms of a ruling made by the Civil Service Commission.

All employes whose promotions were overlooked by error of their agency officials after July 11, 1945, are included in the ruling.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news segments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor everywhere in the best tradition, and includes, and details labor information at length in the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

State Federation Council Votes Ban On Convention Participation by Reds

New York City.—The executive council of the New York State Federation of Labor adopted a program which will result in preventing Communists from taking part in future conventions and conferences of the federation.

Fourteen members of the 18-man council who attended a meeting here voted unanimously for a resolution to that effect.

While the proposed amendment to the federation's policy does not mention Communists by name, a spokesman for the council made it clear that they were objects of the action.

The state federation already bars Communists from "seeking or holding any office" in organized labor.

Before it can become effective the amendment must be offered to the annual convention of the federation next July. It would not become operative until a year from its acceptance. The changes would prevent Communists from serving as representatives or delegates either at federation conventions or at conferences participated in by it.

The council also called on Governor Dewey to set up a committee, on which labor would be represented, to study legislation in the light of Red and other commodities and to recommend needed legislation to the State Legislature.

Other resolutions condemned the "gross misuse of the veto power" by Soviet representatives in the United Nations and instructed delegates to the national convention of the American Federation of Labor in San Francisco to back all moves to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act.

Green's Convention Keynote To Be Broadcast On Oct. 7

San Francisco.—Two nation-wide broadcasts will give the American people and the 7,500,000 members of the American Federation of Labor first-hand reports on the highlights and important developments of the 66th annual AFL convention which opens here October 6.

On October 7, over the network of the American Broadcasting Company, AFL President William Green will deliver a talk keynoting the course of the convention's actions. This program will originate here at 7:30 p.m., Pacific Time, which is 10:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

The following week, on October 14 at the same time and over the same stations, the keynote program of the convention will report on the major steps taken by the convention up to that date in dealing with important labor and social problems.

Besides these definitely scheduled broadcasts, which will be aired over the AFL's regular Labor—USA series, additional radio programs are being prepared to carry important convention speeches and significant news reports of convention actions.

Even if you can't attend the convention personally, it will be possible for you to keep abreast of important developments by tuning in to these radio programs.

Truman Urges Less Food Waste To Fight Prices And Aid World

Appoints Citizens Food Committee to Map Voluntary Plan

Washington, D. C.—President Truman advocated a voluntary "waste law" program by every American citizen to combat the price situation in the United States and help alleviate the grave world food shortage.

The President appointed a 26-man Citizens Food Committee to study the situation and recommend measures to implement the conservation policy, termed imperative by Mr. Truman.

The President William Green was named a member of the committee which will be headed by Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers Company, large soap manufacturers. In his statement on the food situation, Mr. Truman said:

"There is one immediate and personal thing each of us can do. We can learn how to conserve by being more selective in foods we buy, particularly those products whose production requires large quantities of grain.

"Such action on our part will do much to help save on our family budget and we will help those who are in desperate need.

"There is no doubt that the American people, realizing the extreme seriousness of the food situation, will respond fully."

Mr. Truman made public a report from the Cabinet committee on world food policies which he had appointed which emphasized the urgency of doing everything possible to meet the problem at home and abroad."

The President said the committee made it clear that "definite steps to conserve on use of foodstuffs at home and reduce the feeding of grain to livestock will be essential if we are to make our fullest contribution toward meeting minimum foreign needs and at the same time relieve the upward pressure on prices at home."

The President asked the Citizens Food Committee to take action at the first possible date to develop plans for carrying out the conservation program. He said:

"At the same time I am establishing a working organization which will be available to the heads of every department in support of the over-all program. I will confer with the congressional leaders of both parties about the legislative action which may be necessary.

The President urged conservation on the part of every American citizen as an interim program until detailed instructions are prepared by the Citizens Food Committee.

Charles Luckman, chairman of the committee, predicted the American people will "rise to the war against starvation as they have won all wars."

"We don't do much good to win a war against totalitarianism if you're going to starve democracy to death," he said. "The American people have never failed in a crisis before and they will win this war against starvation."

Wide Variations In Working Conditions, Wages, Found In Laundry Industry Study

Washington, D. C.—The laundry industry, historically among the lowest paying for women workers, need not be "synonymous with depressed wages and employment standards," according to a report released by the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department.

This conclusion is based upon a study of 258 power laundry establishments in 56 southern and other cities employing more than 21,000 workers, three-fourths of whom were women.

The report states that progressive laundry managements found in city after city demonstrated that decent wage and employment standards are practicable.

Investigators found wide variations in working conditions not only among cities and still wider variations in different parts of the country, the report states.

Of the employes included in the survey, only 30 to 40 percent were working under terms of collective bargaining contracts in effect between unions and the managements, the survey disclosed.

Chicago was cited as having "far and away" the highest pay for power laundry workers than any of the other cities studied. The average there was 61 cents an hour. None earned less than 45 cents. Some earned as high as 75.

Kansas City, Terre Haute, Ind., and Salt Lake City were cited as showing that wage standardization within a city is possible. Variations in hourly earnings of laundries in these cities were less than 5 cents an hour.

Other findings of the report were that:

In most of the cities surveyed, workers in the better type laundries earned 30 percent to 50 percent more than in the lowest paying plant, but retail prices tended to be identical.

About seven-tenths of the laundries were on a 45 to 50-hour week. A fifth worked more than 50 hours and two-thirds of the laundries.

Facilities for the health and comfort of the worker were pronounced "generally satisfactory" on the whole. Major working condition items such as ventilation, illumination and layout, however, were generally adequate.

Hiring Hall Clause Retained by SUP In Tentative West Coast Agreement

San Francisco.—Retention of the hiring hall is one of the salient points of a new contract tentatively agreed to by the AFL's Seafarers' Union of the Pacific and the Pacific American Shipowners' Association.

Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the SUP, and president of the Seafarers' International Union, expressed satisfaction over the hiring hall provision. He took the position that it was virtually unchanged in the closed shop. Since the union would do the hiring. No closed shop clause would be incorporated into the contract, however.

Uncertainty over the legality of the hiring hall under the Taft-Hartley law, led Mr. Lundeberg and Gregory Harrison, counsel for the shipowners, to discuss the issue with Member Robert A. Taft before its incorporation into the tentative agreement.

Final agreement on the clause eliminated one of the chief threats to interruption of shipping on the West Coast. The SUP was ready to strike if the hiring hall issue was not settled satisfactorily.

Commenting upon the agreement, Mr. Harrison, the shipowners' spokesman, made the following statement:

"We do not believe the continued maintenance of the hiring hall violates the law. It is only when cooperation with the hiring hall becomes a strict closed shop that you have a violation.

"The hearings presently under consideration will, because of circumstances, provide union security and the printing establishments in the industry will be required to operate under the act.

The complaint issued against the Typographical Union is the first test of the Taft-Hartley law since the recent convention, to refrain from signing new contracts under the Taft-Hartley law and to merely post in the employer's establishment "conditions of employment" satisfactory to the union.

In the secondary boycott case, another NLRB regional director asked the U. S. District Court in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a mandatory injunction against Local 74 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and its business agent. Under the Taft-Hartley law the NLRB general counsel has no discretion concerning action taken on alleged secondary boycotts. He is required to seek an injunction from the court.

In the petition presented to the court, it was alleged that the union interfered with completion of a building by forcing the owner, Wall and Moor coverings were being installed by a non-union store of Chattanooga. The work was being done by union employes.

The allegation stated that the employing concern had refused to grant the carpenters' demand for a raise in February. The union then, it was said, put pressure on Watson's which employes of Watson's Specialty Store work in the building.

At the same time the local union was alleged to have threatened upon contractors using material from the store in order to abrogate their agreement with Watson's.

The injunction would go beyond restraining the union from boycotting the Watson store and seek to enjoin any strike of union carpenters where the object was to force any employer or anyone else who did business with the store to refrain from doing so.

Denham Issues Complaints Against Two AFL Unions

Washington, D. C.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, utilized the powers given him by the Taft-Hartley law and swung into action against two AFL unions.

Two complaints issued under Denham's direction charged the International Typographical Union with refusal to bargain, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters with staging a secondary boycott. Both of the actions alleged in the complaints are illegal under the Taft-Hartley law.

In Baltimore, Maryland, the NLRB regional director issued a complaint against Typographical Union No. 12 on a charge made by The Graphic Arts League, an organization of 22 employers formed for the purpose of conducting negotiations with the union.

The complaint alleged that Local 12 and the international union "have at all times since on or about Aug. 26, 1947, refused and continue to refuse to bargain collectively in good faith with the Graphic Arts League, acting on behalf of the companies in the unit, with respect to pay, wages, hours of employment or other conditions of employment of the employes in the unit" set forth.

The complaint further alleged that the union "has and seek to enjoin any strikes of union carpenters where the object was to force any employer or anyone else who did business with the store to refrain from doing so.

Randolph, ITU President, Denounces NLRB Suit Against Printers Union

Indianapolis.—Woodruff Randolph, president of the International Typographical Union, denounced the action of the general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board in filing a complaint against the union and its local in Baltimore, alleging refusal to bargain on the part of the union.

The complaint charges that the union's contract" policy adopted by the Typographical Union. It accused the union of refusing to bargain collectively in good faith" with the Graphic Arts League, a printing employers' association.

"The Baltimore Typographical Union did not refuse to bargain in anything," Mr. Randolph said, "and was willing to continue negotiations with the employers against the ITU took over."

"The Baltimore union did not break off negotiations and refuse to bargain. It refused to accept the employers' demands that would have forced the union into a company union."

"Despite Mr. Denham's interference, this will continue to be our policy. I am persuaded that when all the facts are brought out, our position will be found to be in full compliance with the law."

Probers Urge Curb on Food Speculation; AFL Demands Profits Tax, Wage Law

New York City.—A joint congressional committee probing into the causes of rising living costs urged the government to take immediate action to curb speculation and margin trading on the nation's food commodity exchanges.

At the hearing conducted by the committee, Chairman Representative William Collins, AFL Regional Director Joseph Keenan, and others urged as a means of stifling the upward trend in food prices.

Mr. Collins testified on behalf of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York. He portrayed vividly the labor battle being waged by the average American worker against the ever-rising price level and put forth a concrete program for its amelioration.

He urged congressional action to curb commodity speculation, the enforcement of anti-trust laws, incentives to reduce excessive profits ranged in the distribution of products, a vigorous campaign against hoarding, the establishment of an excess profits tax, and immediate passage of a bill providing for minimum wage law.

Members of the committee hit at speculation in basic foods, terming it "a racket" and "gambling against our civilization" and "ridiculous." After consultations, during the hearing, they dispatched the following telegram to President Truman:

"It has become clear to the members of the Eastern subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Prices that present and contemplated practices in accumulating market fluctuations instead of decreasing them, and that presently it is supporting food prices at unjustifiable levels.

"We therefore urge that your Administration use every means within its power to restrain this dangerous activity. In so doing you will have full support. It is incredible that at this critical time the necessities of life should be permitted on such small margins of profit as to encourage and be greatly increased to the benefit of speculators. Such practices of speculation were made for normal millers and producers.

"We also urge careful study of the whole question of governmental food purchases, whether for foreign relief or for the armed forces, in order that they may not be subject to speculation."

Signing the telegram were Senators Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont, Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut, Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania; Representatives Clarence E. Kilburn of Pennsylvania, Clarence E. Kilburn of New York, and Edward J. Hart of New Jersey.

LIBERALS PLAN DRIVE ON TAFT-HARTLEY LAW

New York City.—Leaders of the liberal party announced the start of an intensive campaign for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and preparation for the 1948 national election.

Forty leaders, including David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, attended a meeting which laid the groundwork for the campaign. One of the purposes of establishing political units in the various states and cities, locals. The units will not be identical with the union organizations thus avoiding any possibility of violating the Taft-Hartley law's ban on political activity by unions.

As part of their activities the Liberal party organization plans an intensive drive to register all eligible voters. Unions have cooperated in this endeavor by distributing literature and cards pledging the signers to register.

ILO to Wage Continuing Campaign Toward World Unity on Labor Matters

Montreal, Canada.—The International Labor Organization declared that it would continue to do everything in its power to contribute to the making and deepening the unity of effort" of the United Nations and its specialized international agencies associated with the ILO.

The pledge was contained in the first report prepared by the ILO and submitted to the United Nations for consideration at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly at Lake Success, New York.

The ILO, which was established in 1919, is the oldest of the specialized agencies which now form part of the United Nations framework. It was brought into relationship with the United Nations last year with the approval by the General Assembly of the UN and the General Conference of the ILO of an agreement establishing methods of cooperation between the organizations.

Covering the period between the establishment of the United Nations and July 15 of this year, the report surveys the postwar activities of the ILO, with particular emphasis on a number of questions which, it says, appear to be of special interest to the United Nations at the present time. These are employment and unemployment, social security, the protection of children and young persons, women, migrant workers, the social policy in nonmetropolitan territories, and migration.

Pointing out that 86 International Labor Conventions, or treaties, and 83 Recommendations have been adopted by the Organization to date, the report declares that the obligations and standards embodied in these instruments "have been the source of many formative influences upon the development of social legislation in many countries during the last three decades." The total number of ratifications of the Conventions is given at 948.

In the field of social security, the report says, the emphasis of the ILO's work has shifted from the establishment of insurance systems similar to a broader conception which seeks the extension of the coverage of measures to provide "a basic income to all in need of such protection and comprehensive medical care." This new conception, it declares, now forms the foundation of the Organization's work in the social security sphere.

Also noted has been a similar shift of emphasis in the Organization's work in the field of migration. The earlier work, it shows, was designed primarily to protect migrants, but in recent years increasing stress has been laid on ensuring the successful assortment with men workers.

The future importance of the ILO's work in advising governments and employers on labor questions is seen in the report. The member countries, it points out, have come increasingly to recognize the value of the information and experience amassed by the International Labor Office, the Organization's permanent secretariat, and to call upon the Office for information and advice on the questions with which the Organization deals.

N. J. STATE FEDERATION RE-ELECTS OFFICERS

Atlantic City.—Delegates to the fifth annual convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor re-elected Louis T. Hatzell president of the federation.

Other officers who were also re-elected without opposition are Michael J. Condon, Orange, first vice-president; William Carter, Cranford, second vice-president; Joseph A. Bell, Trenton, third vice-president, and Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark, secretary-treasurer.

AFL'S RAILWAY CLERKS WIN REPRESENTATION OVER CIO

Washington, D. C.—The National Mediation Board authorized the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, an AFL affiliate, as bargaining agent for clerical, office, store, fleet and passenger employees of Western Airlines, Inc.

The board's authorization followed an election in which the AFL union was chosen by the employees over a rival CIO union. The tally of ballots showed 218 for the AFL group as against 181 for the CIO unit.

PRICE JUMPS NULLIFY TEACHERS' PAY BOOSTS

Washington, D. C.—Increases in the cost of living have cut the average 17 percent boost in teachers' salaries, Rudolph L. Mangner, secretary of the Kerry Smith of the United States Office of Education.

Citing Government figures showing the cost of living rose 17½ percent, Dr. Smith said:

"Everybody very hard, we managed to stay in the same place."

Dr. Smith spoke before a meeting of the American Public Relations Association.

UMW RELINQUISHES RIGHT TO REPRESENT RAIL MEN

Washington, D. C.—The National Mediation Board announced that District 50 of the AFL's United Mine Workers decided to relinquish its right of representation" for 600 employes of the Western Maryland Railway Company.

The board is considering petitions for an election to choose a new bargaining agent submitted by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Railroad Trainmen.

FARBEN CHEMICAL FIRM SUBSIDIZED BY HITLER

Nuernberg, Germany.—The I. G. Farben chemical combine obtained more than $1,220,000,000 in credits and subsidies from the Nazi government for its enthusiastic part in Hitler's four-year plan of war preparation, according to documents introduced in the Farben war crimes trial.

MEMBERS OF AFL UNIONS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Bronxville, N. Y.—Three members of AFL unions were among the five scholarship winners selected for a year's study at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, it was announced by Constantine Panunzio, president of the college.

They included Taylor, president of Sarah Lawrence College, and chairman of the scholarship committee announced that Robert Regan, member of Local 61 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America, and Edward Hart, member of Local 61 of the Office Employes International Union, AFL, and Gertrude Thornburgh, member of the United Office and Professional Workers of America.

The scholarships were made available by the Sarah Lawrence College Transatlantic Foundation in England and provide for a year's residence, board and room at Ruskin College.

AFL MUNICIPAL WORKERS DRIVE FOR $500 INCREASE

New York City.—Walter S. Pamish, representatives of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employes, announced a drive for a $500 wage increase for city employes.

Mr. Pamish cited the ever increasing cost of living as one of the basic causes of the wage demand and noted that employes were resigning from the city services because of the prevailing low levels of wages and salaries.

He charged that the city cannot go on with its present wage policy because at the expense of its employes, whose average wage is $36.76 a week as compared with the average weekly earnings in industry of $49.28.

ARIZONA FEDERATION BACKS CO-OP MOVEMENT

Tucson, Ariz.—The Arizona State Federation of Labor went on record in support of the cooperative movement and urged its members in each local to study ways and means of furthering it.

The annual convention of the federation adopted a formal resolution declaring the cooperative movement "to be the only practical method in sight which will bring a "semblance of democracy to our economic order."

FACTORY WORKERS' PAY $49.29 WEEKLY IN AUGUST

Washington, D. C.—Factory workers earned an average of $49.29 a week in August, the Labor Department reported. It said that additional wage increases boosted average hourly earnings to 1.4 cents.

Workers in durable goods averaged $52.28 a week, slightly above their July income but not as high as the postwar peak reached in June. The department pointed out, however, that the cost of work in durable goods rose 2.9 per week, a slight decrease from the June work week.